



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
Office of Administrative Hearings

DCCA News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-2850
Fax: (808) 586-2856

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 31, 2007

NEW LAW PERTAINING TO CLAIMS AGAINST DESIGN PROFESSIONALS STARTS JANUARY 1

HONOLULU – The State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is reminding all consumers about a new law (Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 672B), which takes effect at the beginning of the year.

Starting January 1, anyone wishing to file a lawsuit against a design professional (engineers, architects, surveyors, or landscape architects) licensed in Hawaii must submit their claims to the Design Claim Conciliation Panel ("DCCP") before heading to court. This new requirement was established by the 2007 Legislature under Act 207, and was approved by Governor Lingle on June 21, 2007.

The program is designed to assist parties in evaluating their claims and exchanging information in a relatively expedited and inexpensive manner. The goal of the DCCP program is to provide the parties with an opportunity to resolve meritorious claims without filing a lawsuit and discourage parties from filing frivolous or fraudulent claims in court.

For more information on the DCCP program, call the Office of Administrative Hearings at 586-2828 or log onto:

http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca/areas/oah/forms/DCCP_forms/

###

For more information, contact:
Christine Hirasa
Public Information Officer
Phone: 586-2622
Email: chirasa@dcca.hawaii.gov